



MIKE OTTO

**WEIGHING IN ON WORLD WOES** Professor Lynette Schultz speaks at the Unveiling Africa Foundation’s I-House event.

# Speakers dispute divide between globalization and westernization

ALLISON GRAHAM  
News Writer

The question of whether globalization equals westernization was raised at the Unveiling Africa Foundation’s second annual speaker series on 27 September.

The non-profit University of Alberta-based group, which was created last January, aims to help African people in need of education and employment through the establishment of various self-help programs.

“The idea behind Unveiling Africa was more about promoting the value of education and also increasing access to education,” said Chichi Imoka, a student at the U of A originally from Nigeria and one of the founding members and organizers of the foundation.

The speaker series event, which was held in International House, presented the issue of globalization not only in Africa but also in many other developing areas around the world.

“The speakers series was supposed to be that bridge between the outside world [...] and the University,” Imoka said.

The evening had four lecturers from the U of A: Ali Abdi, professor of education and international development; Dr Lynette Schultz, assistant professor and co-director of the Global Education Network; Rod Loyola, who came to Canada as a refugee from Chile and now has a BA in anthropology; and Lord Cephas Mawuko-Yevugah, a doctoral candidate and sessional instructor in political

science. Each individual discussed topics related to the controversy surrounding globalization.

“Ideology trumps everything else,” Abdi stated. From the privatization of African schools that many people can’t afford to the exploitation of labour, Abdi discussed how globalization, though not a recent issue, has evolved into a different problem.

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MUSEMBI NUNGU  
EVENT MODERATOR

“[There are] new phenomena of new globalization,” Abdi said, describing the “extensity [sic] and intensity” that has given birth to a much harsher form of globalization.

Shultz then continued to speak about the complexity of the globalization phenomenon, describing it as an “ethical void.”

“The globalization system is impossible,” she noted, comparing it to militarization and a system based on

threats.

Loyola, who focused mainly on the globalization of Latin America and its similarities to Africa’s situation, said that it’s necessary to understand the problems of globalization so that nations can break their “Eurocentric” bond.

It was Mawuko-Yevugah who directly addressed the issue of whether globalization and westernization were essentially the same.

“Culture is community,” Mawuko-Yevugah said, claiming that because Africa is not benefiting from globalization and the ideas influencing Africa’s culture aren’t from Africa, many cities are becoming remarkably westernized.

“[Africa] must initiate home-grown policies,” he said.

However, Musembi Nungu, the moderator of the discussion, suggested that at its root, globalization isn’t westernization.

“We cannot avoid the reality of the fact that there’s an issue of power,” Nungu said. “With any project [...] whoever has more power [is] the dominant force, and in this case when we talk about globalization today, we are really talking about westernization.”

Although the speakers examined the negative effects of globalization, none of them denied that there are advantages that can come from it.

“Everything can be a good and bad thing; it’s how you use it, [and] it’s how you perceive it,” Imoka explained. “In thinking critically about it, I’m hoping that we’ll be able to see that globalization can be used as a tool.”

## CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Cody Civiero

### JUST PROMISE YOU’LL SPEND IT ON ACUTANE

EPS was notified after an attempted robbery that occurred at 3:30pm on 26 September in the area of the International House. A male student was walking on a dirt path and listening to his iPod when two males approached him. One of the males grabbed the student and brandished what appeared to be a hunting knife. The student was not injured. The first suspect is described as Caucasian, early 20s, with facial acne, blemishes, and stubble, wearing an olive green

hoodie. The second suspect is described as dark-skinned, wearing a grey hoodie.

### B&E BUTTERFINGERS

A witness reported a male attempting to break into a parking-ticket dispenser on 85 Avenue and 112 Street on 27 September. Officers attended the area and were questioning a male when another male walked out of the shadows and dropped a pry bar on the ground. The male, who had no University affiliation, had an extensive criminal record and was found to be in the possession of numerous break-in tools. He was charged by EPS with the possession of break-in tools and mischief.

### PACKIN’ HEAT

On the morning of 28 September, a transit officer spotted a gun in a male youth’s waistband at the platform level

of University station. EPS was advised and arrived on scene a short time later. Four were arrested, and one of the males was found to be in possession of a bb gun. EPS is investigating.

### CAPITAL SCAMMING

On 28 September, two males were observed leaving an unlocked office on the first floor of the Heritage Medical Research Centre. After being approached by a staff member who inquired as to what they were doing, they claimed that they were with Capital Planning and were looking at space allocation. It would appear that this was not the case, as no one was scheduled to be in the area. The first male is described as a Caucasian in his 40s, balding with black hair, glasses, 5’6-5’8” tall, wearing a lanyard and carrying a clipboard. The second male is described as in his 20s.



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